President's News Conference on Foreign and Domestic Issues

Following is a transcript of President Reagan's news conference last night in Washington, as recorded by The New York Times:

OPENING STATEMENT

Be seated. I have a brief opening statement besides saying good evening. One week ago today in London, I Joined the leaders of six major annual economic summit and we ment to take the pulse of the world economy, to measure the impact of the policies that we've been implement in the pulse of the world economy, to measure the impact of the policies that we've been implement in the pulse of the policies of the pol

statement besides saying good evening. One week gap totody in Incofoon, I joined the leaders of six major and the property of the policies that we've been implement ing during the past three years, and to
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policies that we've been implement ing during the past three years, and to
only to measure the impact of the
policies that we've been implement ing during the past three years, and to
only to measure the impact of the
prosperity and peace that we share.

Change comes neither easity nor
quickly in foreign affairs but there
was recognition in London that while
lenges we are on the right trick. By
working together, by sticking to our
policies, we've made impressive
progress since 1981. The Western
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Summit Talks

Summit Talks

Q. Mr. President, no matter what you say you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, two Republican leaders don't think you've done so far, the don't have a great of the two Senafors's and id talk to them, they were failing and able a great you have ever talked to Mr. Baker and to Mr. Casey and asked and the great you land the treatment of the difficulties and problems that we've bege having.

But yes, I am willing to fine a mamber of issues other than a far to determ some of the difficulties and problems that we've bege having.

But yes, I am willing to fine a mamber of issues other than a far for the corn of responding but the hove kept in communication. There's are a mamber of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of issues other than a far for the corn of the summer of the Advance Preparation

O. Mr. President, do we understand you to say that you're willing now to you to will an advance and tool to say that you're willing now to you to say that you're willing now to you had been as you had not been as you had not been as you had not had

occur?

A: Well, we are taking steps. We're

— this is what I mean by quiet diplomacy. And I have been in communication myself; a written communication, the Soviet leadership. There is
one thing that I think P. ye said this
before—but that I think many of you
fall to recomize and that is there.

arguing with someone or not arguing with someone. There've been a lot of changes over there. But we're ready, willing and able.

Ins has been investigated thoroughly.

Q. Sir, in recent speeches this year
about the Soviets you have held out an
olive branch to them, but at the same
time you usually either denounce
their system or their actions. Would it
time you usually either denounce
their system or their actions. Would it
dialogue started again, whether at
the summit or back in Geneva, if you
simply held out the olive branch without also taking a shot at them?

A. Well, I don't think I've gone out
only the started again, whether at
the summit or back in Geneva, if you
simply held out the olive branch with
out also taking a shot at them?

A. Well, I don't think I've gone out
only the started again, way
from the army talks. I don't think that
the present of the started again, way
from the army talks. I don't think that
them referring to the fiveral service
for the unknown solder as a milliaristic orgo, I'l we're going to talk
about comparisons of rhetoric,
they ve topped me in spades Lesley.

A. You know, you shorten the numper of questions we're getting with all
these follow-ups.

Q. All right. Thank you. Anytime.
Q. I don't know if everyone is left as
unclear as I am on where we stand



pre-planning that you both say is necessary?

A. We have been in contact with them on a number of issues that we think — bilateral issues that we think — bilateral issues that we think should be discussed between us. Of course, there is the matter of the arms talks, also, although we've not been talking about that since they have simply walked away. All I can tell you is that what I call quiet diplonacy we are in confact with their people, trying to establish a basis for talks.

people, trying to establish a basis for talks.

Q. Is this an invitation?

A. We haven't reached that point yet.

Q. It this an invitation?

A. We haven't reached that point yet.

Q. It this to join Least y most being yet.

Least not known before. Your communication with the Soviet leadership.

— has that been with Mr. Chernenko, and what — has the subject been a summit, a meeting between your and what.

A. No, much of the communication has been simply on the Proda relationship between our two countries, and my. communication by writing, has been with Mr. Chernenko.

O. II toud dust follow up — sorry.

has been with Mr. Chernenko.

Q. II could just follow up sorry
he's much more gentlemanly.

The solution will be gentlemanly.

Chernenko even if he won't send his delegation back to the nuclear arms. talks?

A. Yes, yes I'm willing to meet with him.

Relations With Soviet

Relations With Soviet:

Q. Mr. President, you have said recently that you think that U.S. Soviet relations would improve in a second Reagan term but several other people who have been in Moscow quote officials there as saying that sint true, that they're not going to ever dead here the second of the several saying that sint true, that they're not going to ever dead but here the second of the several saying the saying the several saying the saying the several saying the saying the several saying the saying

that! No.

Q. Mr. President, as I recall, one of your previous formulations about a summit was that you would have to have something concrete to show for it. Are you willing to have a summit that does not have a concrete agreement or piece of paper like the new SALT or START treaty or some new initiative toward a SALT or START treaty?

initiative toward a SALT or START treaty?

A. Well, Lars, I've never though about a specific of that kind. As I've sald, there should be on an agenda a subject that both sides want to talk about and have some desire to get a settlement. And that holds out the present the settlement of the settlement

promise then that something might, when you don't plan that well, if I could recall and I don't mean this to be critical of my predecessors, but there was a gert-acquainted meeting the properties of the propert

Q. You're willing to have a summit that does not end in the signing of a treaty on arms control? A. Oh yes, I've said that once al-ready here.

Timing for Talks

Timing for Talks

Q. What is your time frame on this?
If you're now willing to negotiate the possibility of a summit, do you thin the possibility of a summit, do you thin the possibility of a summit, do you thin the possibility of a summit of the possibility of a summit of the possibility of the p

Division in Soviet Division in Soviet

Q. Some of your advisers are saying privately that the Soviet leadering privately that the Soviet leadering privately that the Soviet leadering the soviet leadering the soviet leadering the soviet leaders and the soviet leaders
since you've been in office. Is that
your view and what are the implice.

1.4. Welf, we don't know. There's
been the theory advanced that they're
kind of marking time and perhaps in
some disagreement about what
course they should follow. But there's
no way to know that. So we just keep
on trying.

Pre-election Debate

Pre-election Debate

Q.M.P. President, if I could get back
to political panies for a second, for,
mer. President Carrier as second, for,
mer. President Carrier as second, for,
earlier this month, that despite your
statement generally in favor of a debate with your opponent, that he
hinks you're going to duck your
Democratic opponent and will never
Democratic opponent and will never
Democratic opponent and will never
Democratic positioner Vice President Walter Mondale is the apparent Democratic nominee, can you now promise
that you will participate in a Presidential debate with him? Sud that I
would hide? There he goes again! I
would look forward to a debate.
Dean?

Soviet Policy Change

Soviet Policy Change

Q. Mr. President, today the chief
Kremin spokesman said we want to
have negotiations with the United
States on a whole complex of issues,
which is certainly something different than Mr. Chernenko said the day
before, Do you read this as a change
before, Do you read this as a change
before, Do you read this as a change
before, bo you read this as a change
something going on these that is he
something going on these that is he
pening very quickly in relations between our two countries?

A. Well's give 'em — we'll take a
chance in finding out on that because,
al 1 say, we are in communication.

If they're ready to talk, we are

Affirmative Action

Affirmative Action

Q. Mr. President, do you interpret
the Supreme Court decision this week
in the Memphis fireflighters case as
the death knell of affirmative action
the death knell of affirmative action
to the death case of the death of the death
promotion?

"A: No.! To don't think that at all. I
think the Supreme Court was interpreting, giving an interpretation of
what the law actually says. And as a
matter of fact i think in the discusthe death of the death of the death
when that was being discussed, ittowhen the discussed it in the
Senate said that the law did not prodefermed the discussion of the discussion of the discussion
when t

but a commission that is engaged in a study, I'm quite sure that they're not going to talk about things that they are currently doing. I think the very nature of that kind of investigation when they have everything wrapped up and tied up and all the evidence that they need for any conclusions they come to.

Q. To follow up, sir, in your setting up this commission under Judge and the setting up this commission under Judge and they are they a

Deficit Reduction

Q. Mr. President, you noted in your opening remarks the debates on the Hill about the deficit reduction package. Given some problems we're having with the spending side but not on the tax side, would you be willing to sign a tax package without a spending package?

A. Only if I had assurance that the

kage? . Only if I had assurance that the package yif II had assurance that the spending package was coming along. There would be no point in the other. This triad that was worked out, this three-legged stool of domestic spending, defense cuts that we finally defense cuts that we finally expended to the same that the same certain loopholes and so forth, this has to go together. I made along the same kind of mistake of going along with a tax increase in the guise of the same kind of the

for. This time I'm going to be pretty sure. Q. Sir, does that mean then you might want them to wait from sending a tax package up until they've actually completed the spending cuts?

A. What I say is, if there is assurance that the appropriation bills are ance that the appropriation bills are being until the sending on that also, I'm prepared to look them in the eye and then say, "Well, all right," and wait. Yes?

Hispanic Support

Q. Mr. President, if you and your campaign organization spent a lot of time trying to increase your support among illispanic overs, yet you consider the property of the prope

Weapons in Space

Weapons in Space
Q. Mr. President, you've said tonight that you're ready and willing to talk to the Soviets. But Mr. Chernenko has proposed negotiating a banion antisatellite weapons and other proposed that the second to the second that the second that the verification, as you said last weekend, why can't verification be negotiated once you sit down with the Soviets to discuss those weapons?
A. Well, there are a number of things, and we are studying that. We don't have a flat no on that yet. We're don't have a flat no on that yet. We're don't have a flat no on that yet. We're soviets are way ahead of us in that field. They've been at this for about 10 years or more. And we are just in the field of beginning research. And we've, I think we've had some definite reasons there for wanting to know our way before we talk. But we have to same the foor on that at all.

Q. Can you also confirm reports

nite reasons there for wanting to know our way before we taik. But we haven't slammed the door on that at all Q: Can you also confirm reports about the verification issue that there has been significant Soviet violations of all of the treaties going back to 1958?

A. We turned over a 200-page report to the Congress that was classified to the Congress that was classified to expend the congress of the risk of exposing sources. But it was a report on outright violations of many of the treaties in the past and also some ambiguitte in which, maybe based on language difficient of the results of the result

Parity With Soviet

what the law actually says. And as a matter of fact I think in the discussional properties of the state of th

as you can have such assurance—that there won't be a confrontation, because the price would be too high, but at the same time emphasizing that we want more than anything else to join with them in reducing the we've had arms limitation dealings and treatles and so forth, even such as the SALT treaties. All of those simply legalized ana arms race. They were limitations, or rules and regular your outload.

As a matter of fact, the Soviet Union added almost 4,000 warheads after the two sides had signed the SALT III agreement. That's not my idea of the two really need the free to the same than the same

Shortened Term

Shortened Term

O. Mr. President, if you win a second term are you also belief committed to write a guide belief committed to write a guide belief committed to write a guide belief to the committed to which we will be the committed to write a guide belief to do with the work of the write a guide belief to do with the write a guide belief to do with the write a guide belief to do with the write a guide belief to discussed it with the First Lady in any case? Old 4 young fellow that the devit guide belief to discussed it with the First Lady?

Q. You did not discuss it with the First Lady?

A. No, there's never been any such talk at all.

Homosexual Rights

Homosexual Rights

Off. President, there's a move
adout in the Congress that has the support of many of the Bemocratic
off many of the Bemocratic
Federal civil rights law that probabits
job discrimination against homosexuals. Is that something that you
would favor?

A. Now, I was you're going to
would favor?

Offere's a measure before the
about the three of you.

Q. There's a measure before the
Congress to change the Federal civil
right from the opening the property of
the striment opening that you'would
favor?

A. Well, I just have to say I am opposed to discrimination period.

Q. But would you support the meas-

posed to discrimination period.
Q. But would you support the measure, Mr. President?
A. What?
Q. Would you support that measure?

A. I want to see what else they have there.

Divided Society

Divided Society

O. Mr. President, the Kenner report said the United States is moving to wards two the theory of the control o

ties and blacks and their place in the Government itself.

But everything that we have done we have't done anything that in any way discriminated against any of those people. We have done things the properties of the properties